

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

- An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
- Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's representative, ANDREW J. LEE, on 08/19/2009.

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

- The listing of claims as below replaces listing in the CLAIMS that was filed by applicant on 06/05/2009.

1 - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A system for sharing data among a plurality of business entities involved in a product supply chain, the system comprising:

a storage component configured to store a plurality of data objects pertaining to a product, wherein each stored data object includes a plurality of predefined data groups, and wherein the plurality of stored data objects are maintained by a manufacturer of the product; and

a processing component in communication with the storage component, the processing component being configured to:

receive, from a user affiliated with a first supplier, a request to access a data object in the plurality of stored data objects, wherein the data object is owned by a second supplier, and the first supplier supplies to the manufacturer a first component for the product;

extract from the received request a user identifier that uniquely identifies the user;

retrieve a set of privileges associated with the data object and the extracted user identifier, the retrieved set of privileges including read privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to view;

determine, based on the read privileges, one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view;

generate a redacted version of the data object, wherein the redacted version of the data object does not include the determined one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view; and

transmit the redacted version of the data object to the user,

wherein the retrieved set of privileges are defined by the manufacturer based on a business agreement between the manufacturer and [[a]] the second supplier distinct from the first supplier, wherein the second supplier supplies to the manufacturer a second component for the product, and wherein the business agreement indicates that the first supplier should not have access to data the one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view and that is sensitive to the second supplier.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups further include a group of attributes of the data object and a group of documents associated with the data object.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups include a group of links to other data objects in the plurality of data objects.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the data object includes data selected from a group consisting of: product design data, product development data, product supply chain data, business relationship data, business agreement data, bill of material data, change order data, product cost data, product specifications data, and product supplier data.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the set of privileges includes write privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to modify.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the set of privileges includes delete privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to delete.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the set of privileges includes a privilege that allows the user to add new data groups to the data object.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing data among a plurality of business entities involved in a product supply chain, the method comprising:

storing, by a computer system, a plurality of data objects pertaining to a product, wherein each stored data object includes a plurality of predefined data groups, and wherein the plurality of stored data objects are maintained by a manufacturer of the product;

receiving, by the computer system, a request to access a data object in the plurality of stored data objects from a user affiliated with a first supplier, wherein the data object is owned by a second supplier, and the first supplier supplies to the manufacturer a first component for the product;

extracting, by the computer system, a user identifier that uniquely identifies the user from the received request;

retrieving, by the computer system, a set of privileges associated with the data object and the extracted user identifier, the retrieved set of privileges including read privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to view;

determining, by the computer system, one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view based on the read privileges;

generating, by the computer system, a redacted version of the data object, wherein the redacted version of the data object does not include the determined one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view; and

transmitting, by the computer system, the redacted version of the data object to the user, wherein the retrieved set of privileges are defined by the manufacturer based on a business agreement between the manufacturer and [[a]] the second supplier distinct from the first supplier, wherein the second supplier supplies to the manufacturer a second component for the product, and wherein the business agreement indicates that the first supplier should not have access to data the one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view and that is sensitive to the second supplier.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups include a group of attributes of the data object and a group of documents associated with the data object.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups further include a group of links to other data objects in the plurality of data objects.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the data object includes data selected from a group consisting of: product design data, product development data, product supply chain data, business relationship data, business agreement data, bill of material data, change order data, product cost data, product specifications data, and product supplier data.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the set of privileges includes write privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to modify.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the set of privileges includes delete privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to delete.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the set of privileges includes a privilege that allows the user to add new data groups to the data object.

34. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a series of instructions which, when executed by a processing component, cause the processing component to facilitate the sharing of data among a plurality of business entities involved in a product supply chain by:

storing a plurality of data objects pertaining to a product, wherein each stored data object includes a plurality of predefined data groups, and wherein the plurality of stored data objects are maintained by a manufacturer of the product;

receiving, from a user affiliated with a first supplier, a request to access a data object in the plurality of stored data objects, wherein the data object is owned by a second supplier, and the first supplier supplies to the manufacturer a first component for the product;

extracting from the received request a user identifier that uniquely identifies the user;

retrieving a set of privileges associated with the data object and the extracted user identifier, the retrieved set of privileges including read privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to view;

determining, based on the read privileges, one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view;

generating a redacted version of the data object, wherein the redacted version of the data object does not include the determined one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view; and

transmitting the redacted version of the data object to the user,

wherein the retrieved set of privileges are defined by the manufacturer based on a business agreement between the manufacturer and [[a]] the second supplier distinct from the first supplier, wherein the second supplier supplies to the manufacturer a second component for the product, and wherein the business agreement indicates that the first supplier should not have access to data the one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view and that is sensitive to the second supplier.

35. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups include a group of attributes of the data object and a group of documents associated with the data object.

36. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups further include a group of links to other data objects in the plurality of data objects.

37. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the data object includes data selected from a group consisting of: product design data, product development data, product supply chain data, business relationship data, business agreement data, bill of material data, change order data, product cost data, product specifications data, and product supplier data.

38. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the set of privileges includes write privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to modify.

39. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the set of privileges includes delete privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to delete.

40. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the set of privileges includes a privilege that allows the user to add new data groups to the data object.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior arts of record do not render obvious, nor anticipate the combination of claimed elements including the claimed limitation *the retrieved set of privileges are defined by the manufacturer based on a business agreement between the manufacturer and the second supplier distinct from the first supplier, wherein the second supplier supplies to the manufacturer a second component for the product, and wherein the business agreement indicates that the first supplier should not have access to the one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view and that is sensitive to the second supplier* as recited in claims 20, 27 and 34. Thus, claims 20 and 35 are allowed. Dependent claims 21-26, 28-33, 35-40 are allowed at least by virtue of their dependencies from claims 20, 27 and 34.

- Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG Q. PHAM whose telephone number is 571-272-4040. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAMES K. TRUJILLO can be reached on 571-272-3677. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/HUNG Q. PHAM/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2159

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